

Message Text

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21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 073511

O 070951Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3042

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 0972

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS SECDEF AS INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, US, SO

SUBJECT: HOUSE COMMITTEE VISIT TO BERBERA

REF: MOGADISCIO 967

SUMMARY:

HOUSE MEMBERS LED BY CONGRESSMEN STRATTON TOURED BERBERA FOR THREE HOUR VISIT MORNING AOD AFTERNOON OF JULY 6. VISIT WAS DISAPPOINTMENT TO CONGRESSMEN AND MARKED BY SOME ACRIMO ON PART OF SOMALI OFFICIALS. CONGRESSMAN STRATTON AND HIS DELEGATION SAW LESS OF BERBERA INSTALLATIONS THAN SENATOR BARTLETT'S GROUP. LIKE SENATOR BARTLETT, THEY WERE DENIED ADMISSION TO BARRACKS SHIP, AND TO COMMUNICATIONS TRANSMITTER AND RECEIVER SITE. THEY DID NOT RPT NOT LEAVE VEHICLES DURING QUICK TOUR OF MISSILE HANDLING FACILITY AND BARRACKS AND TRAILER AREA, AS SENATOR BARTLETT AND HIS GROUP HAD DONE. REACTION OF CONGRESSMEN WAS THAT SOMALI GOVT HAD WELSHED ON PROMISE TO INSPECT BERBERA INSTALLATIONS IN DETAIL.

CONGRESSMEN STRATTON AND MEMBERS OF HIS DELEGATION DID MANAGE QUICK VISIT BY HELICOPTER TO RESETTLEMENT AREAS SOUTH OF MONGADISCIO DURING EARLY MORNING OF JULY 7. THEY DID NOT RPT NOT MEET WITH PRESIDENT SIAD PRIOR TO THEIR EARLY MORNING DEPARTURE FOR RETURN TO US. END SUMMARY.

1. CONGRESSMAN STRATTON AND HIS GROUP LEFT MOGADISCIO FOR BERBERA VISIT AT APPROXIMATELY 0600 HRS JULY 6 BY SOMALI AIRCRAFT. THEY

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ARRIVED HARGEISA AT APPROXIMATELY 0900 HRS AND WERE TOLD THAT SOMALI

HELICOPTER WHICH WOULD FERRY THEM TO BERBERA WAS OUT OF SERVICE. INSTEAD, SOMALI DC-3 WAS TO BE USED TO FLY US AND SOMALI MEMBERS OF DELEGATION TO BERBERA IN THREE TRIPS.

2. LEADER OF SOMALI ESCORT GROUP WAS SECSTATE FOR TRADE AHMED MOHAMED MOHAMUD. OTHER PRINCIPALS ON SOMALI SIDE WERE SRC MEMBER MOHAMED GHELLE YUSUF, WHO IS ALSO NAVAL COMMANDANT, AND SRC MEMBER ABDIRAZAK MOHAMED ABUCAR. WE UNDERSTAND THAT AHMED MOHAMED WAS HANDPICKED BY SIAD TO HEAD SOMALI GROUP. HE IS TOUGH, INTELLIGENT, AND OUTSPOKEN MINISTER WHO CARRIES WEIGHT WITH SIAD OUT OF PROPORTION TO HIS OFFICIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.

3. AT HARGEISA, AHMED MOHAMED TOLD US GROUP THAT US STAFF MEMBERS WOULD PROCEED TO BERBERA IN FIRST FLIGHT, WHILE CONGRESSIONAL MEMBERS HAD SECOND BREAKFAST AT HARGEISA. CONGRESSMEN WOULD THUS BE KEPT OUT OF TORRID BERBERA SUN UNTIL LAST POSSIBLE MOMENT. HE ALSO SUGGESTED SIDE TRIP TO BEER REFUGEE CAMP NEAR BERBERA PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF INSPECTION TOUR.

4. CONGRESSMAN STRATTON DECLINED PROCEED TO BEER CAMP UNTIL BERBERA INSPECTION COMPLETED AND SUGGESTED THAT FULL US DELEGATION PROCEED IN FIRST FLIGHT ACCOMPANIED BY RANKING SOMALI OFFICIALS. AHMED MOHAMED INFORMED US GROUP THAT SOMALI OFFICIALS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR PROGRAM AND AMERICANS WERE THEIR GUESTS. GROUP WAS ALSO TOLD THAT THERE WERE FOUR CATEGORIES OF FACILITIES WHICH THEY WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED TO INSPECT: A) SOVIET FACILITIES; B) SOMALI NAVAL FACILITIES; C) JOINT SOVIET/SOMALI FACILITIES AND D) ANY OTHER FACILITY WHICH WAS OF SENSITIVE NATURE. AHMED'S TOUGH TALK AT HARGEISA PRIOR TO ARRIVAL AT BERBERA ESTABLISHED MOOD WHICH WAS TO REMAIN UNCHANGED DURING REMAINDER OF BERBERA TOUR.

5. CONGRESSMEN PROCEEDED TO BERBERA IN FIRST FLIGHT AND BY TIME OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION HAD JOINED THEM IT WAS AFTER 1100 HRS LOCAL.

6. VISIT TO PORT FACILITIES REPORTEDLY TURNED UP LITTLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. GROUP WAS UNABLE TO INSPECT BUILDINGS ADJACENT TO AREA WHERE STYX MISSILE CRATES SIGHTED AND WHICH HAD BEEN MISSED BY SENATOR BARTLETT'S GROUP. ALSO UNABLE TO PROCEED TO OFFICERS' CLUB IN PORT AREA.

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MOGADISCIO 0972

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7. ON MOLE, CONGRESSMAN STRATTON PROCEEDED UP RAMP TO SOVIET BARRACKS SHIP, ACCOMPANIED BY RUSSIAN-SPEAKING MEMBER OF HIS GROUP, BUT WAS STOPPED BY SOVIET AT HEAD OF GANGWAY. WE UNDERSTAND HE REQUESTED PERMISSION TO BOARD AND WHEN SOVIET DID NOT REPLY, HE ASKED TO SEE CAPTAIN. SOVIET STILL DID NOT RPT NOT REPLY. CONGRESSMAN'S ACTIONS WITNESSED BY SOMALIS, WHO WERE EVIDENTLY DISTURBED BY POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES. SOMALI NAVAL COMMANDER TOLD MEMBER OF US GROUP THAT CONGRESSMAN'S ACTION MIGHT CREATE INTERNATIONAL INCIDENT BETWEEN US AND USSR. ATTITUDE OF SOMALIS WHO WERE ACCOMPANYING SEEMED TO WORSEN FROM THIS POINT ON.

8. FROM PORT, GROUP PROCEEDED TOWARDS TRAILER CAMP AND BARRACKS AREA. WHEN LANDROVERS STOPPED AT POL FACILITY, CONGRESSMAN STRATTON TOLD AHMED MOHAMED THAT HE WISHED FIRST INSPECT TRAILER AND BARRACKS AREA. AHMED REPLIED THAT IF HE DID NOT RPT NOT INSPECT POL FACILITY NOW, HE WOULD NOT RPT NOT GET OPPORTUNITY TO SEE IT AGAIN.

9. AHMED ALSO INFORMED STRATTON THAT GROUP WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED ENTER TRAILER OR BARRACKS AREA -- EXPLAINING THAT SOVIETS WHO OCCUPIED TRAILERS WOULD NOT RPT NOT WELCOME INTRUSION OF SORT WHICH OCCURRED DURING SENATOR BARTLETT'S TOUR, WHEN RUSSIAN WAS SURPRISED EMERGING FROM SHOWER. (FYI AHMED MOHAMED TOLD ME EVENING OF JULY 6 THAT HE WAS CONCERNED ABOUT UNPREDICTABLE RESPONSE OF INDIVIDUAL RUSSLENS BOTH AT BARRACKS VESSEL AND IN TRAILER/BARRACKS AREA. HE SAID HE HAD WARNED MEMBERS OF

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CONGRESSIONAL GROUP AS WELL AGAINST POSSIBILITY OF ALTERCATION.

END FYI).

10. CONGRESSIONAL GROUP WAS DRIVEN PAST COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVER AREA BUT DID NOT RPT NOT STOP. WE ARE NOT RPT NOT CERTAIN WHETHER THEY WERE DRIVEN TO TRANSMITTER SITE.

11. FOR TOUR OF MISSILE HANDLING FACILITY, STAFF MEMBERS WERE LEFT BEHIND. ALL EIGHT CONGRESSMEN ENTERED IN LANDROVERS, ACCOMPANIED BY SOMALI HOSTS. CONGRESSMEN DID NOT RPT NOT LEAVE VEHICLES, WHICH EVIDENTLY DID NOT RPT NOT STOP DURING HASTY TOUR.

12. CONGRESSIONAL GROUP WAS ALSO DRIVEN TO AIRFIELD, WHERE INSPECTION TOUR WAS ENDED. THEY RETURNED TO MOGADISCIO SAME EVENING, WHERE THEY ATTENDED OFFICIAL DINNER HOSTED IN THEIR HONOR BY VP CULMIE. CONGRESSMEN WERE DISAPPOINTED BY RESULTS OF BERBERA TOUR AND PERPLEXED BY SOMALI ATTITUDE. CONGRESSMAN STRATTON HIMSELF WAS VERY SERIOUSLY DISTURBED BY FAILURE OF SOMALI GOVT. TO LIVE UP TO THEIR ASSURANCES THAT FACILITIES AT BERBERA WOULD BE OPEN TO HIS INSPECTION.

13. COMMENT: INTERPRETATION OF SOMALI TACTICS AND MARKED DIFFERENCE BETWEEN VISIT OF SENATOR BARTLETT AND THAT OF HOUSE COMMITTEE WILL BE DISCUSSED SEPTTEL.
HAMRICK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY BASES, CODELS, BERBERA
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOGADI00972
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750233-0711
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750781/aaaacuib.tel
Line Count: 194
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 MOGADISCIO 967
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 AUG 2003 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <17 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HOUSE COMMITTEE VISIT TO BERBERA
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, US, SO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006